

black. The rings on the body do not extend across the ventrals, which are white, and, like the white interspaces between the black rings, irregularly spotted with black.

This is a slender species with narrow head, and with the body somewhat compressed. Total length 15 inches, the tail being 4 inches.

6. Descriptions of three new Species of the Genus *Synallaxis*.

By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society.

[Received June 9, 1874.]

(Plate LVIII.)

Among the birdskins collected by M. Jelski in Central Peru, and lately submitted to my examination by our Corresponding Member M. Taczanowski, of Warsaw, are specimens of four species of Synallaxine birds which had not occurred in his previous collections, and were therefore not included in my synopsis of the genus, published in the first part of the Society's 'Proceedings' for the present year. What is still more remarkable is, that three of these species (all referable to the *Synallaxis* proper according to my views) appear to be new to science. Certainly they cannot be referred to any of the fifty-eight species which I have described in the above-mentioned memoir. The fourth is *Leptasthenura andicola* (Sclater, P. Z. S. 1869, p. 636, pl. xlix. fig. 2), which I had not met with previously in Peruvian collections, although its occurrence there was by no means unlikely from its having been obtained at a high elevation in the Andes in the neighbouring republic of Ecuador.

Of the three new species of *Synallaxis*, with M. Taczanowski's kind sanction, I proceed to offer the following descriptions.

1. SYNALLAXIS PUDIBUNDA, sp. nov. (Plate LVIII. fig. 1.)

Supra murino-brunnea, in dorso inferiore rufescens; alis et cauda luride rufis, hujus rectricibus quatuor mediis in pogonio interiore nigricantibus: superciliis indistinctis, capitis lateribus et corpore toto subtus cineraceo-fuscis; gula media pallide fulva, punctis indistinctis nigris circumdata: hypochondriis et crisso rufescente lavatis: subalaribus et remigum marginibus internis rufis: rostro obscure corneo, mandibula inferiore ad basin albicante, pedibus obscure corylinis: long. tota 5·8, alæ 2·1, caudæ rectr. med. 2·9, rectr. ext. 1·7.

Hab. Obralillo, Peru (*Jelski*).

Mus. Varsoviano.

There is but one specimen of this species, which, however, seems quite distinct from any of those that I am acquainted with. It belongs to the section with twelve rectrices, and will stand best, I think, near *S. modesta* and its allies, having a pale fawn-coloured gular patch, round which, on the sides of the face and neck, are indistinct

blackish freckles. There is a pale superciliary stripe, but very indistinct. The wings externally and the tail are of a nearly uniform darkish rufous, with the exception of the apical portion of the inner webs of the two middle pairs of rectrices, which are blackish.

2. *SYNALLAXIS GRAMINICOLA*, sp. nov. (Plate LVIII. fig. 2.)

Synallaxis graminicola, Jelski, MS.

Supra fusca nigro striata; subtus pallide fulva, macula gulæ quadrata rufa: remigibus omnibus rufo-castaneis, secundariis dorso proximis et ceterorum parte apicali fusco-nigris; alarum tectricibus extus fulvescenti-rufis; subalaribus et remigum marginibus internis pure rufis: caudæ rectricibus tribus utrinque externis castaneis, ceteris præcipue in pogonio externo fusco variegatis, mediis duabus acuminatis et in utroque pogonio fuscis; rectricum omnium scapis nigris: rostro corylino, mandibula inferiore ad basin albicante, pedibus carnis: long. tota 6·8, alæ 2·9, caudæ rectr. med. 3·5, ext. 2.

Hab. Junin, Central Peru (*Jelski*).

Mus. Varsoviano.

Obs. Sp. *S. wyatti*, ex Columbia, affinis, sed macula gulæ rufa, pectore fulvo et alis caudaque longioribus distinguenda.

This is certainly a close ally of *S. wyatti*, established in 1870 upon a single skin obtained by Mr. Wyatt on the Paramo of Pamplona, in Columbia, but appears to be a larger, finer bird, of a nearly uniform rich cinnamomeous below, and with a distinct red gular spot as in *S. anthoides*.

3. *SYNALLAXIS VIRGATA*, sp. nov.

Synallaxis virgata?, *Jelski*, MS.

Supra fusca nigro variegata et a fronte usque ad dorsum medium striis longitudinalibus albis in capite rufescentibus ornata: subtus alba, gula media flavicanti-rufa; hypochondriis et ventre imo pallide fuscis, albo obsolete striolatis: alis fusco-nigris; remigibus in pogonio interno ad basin rufis, necnon extus rufo limbatis; subalaribus cinnamomeo-rufis: cauda fusco-nigra remigibus externis rufescente variegatis: rostro elongato cærulescenti-corneo; pedibus obscure plumbeis: long. tota 7·4, alæ 2·9, caudæ rectr. med. 3·8, ext. 2·0, rostri a rictu 0·85.

Hab. Junin, Central Peru (*Jelski*).

Mus. Varsoviano.

Obs. Proxima *S. flammulata*, sed crassitie majore, dorso inferiore non striato et pectore medio albo diversa.

This larger form of *S. flammulata* is readily distinguishable by the points above mentioned, and is, as far as I can tell from the single specimen obtained by M. Jelski, an excellent species.

Adding, then, three species to those previously sent by M. Jelski, we find that no less than ten *Synallaxes* occur in this district of Peru, namely:—

1. *S. frontalis*, syn. of *Synallaxes*, anteà, p. 8.
2. *S. brunneicaudu*, anteà, p. 8.

3. *S. palpebralis*, anteà, p. 16.
4. *S. curtata*, anteà, p. 19.
5. *S. albicapilla*, anteà, p. 22.
6. *S. pudibunda*, suprà, p. 445.
7. *S. humilis*, anteà, p. 23.
8. *S. graminicola*, suprà, p. 446.
9. *S. virgata*, suprà, p. 446.
10. *S. flammulata*, anteà, p. 26.

7. On a Living Dodo shipped for England in the Year 1628.

By ALFRED NEWTON, M.A., F.R.S., F.Z.S.

[Received June 12, 1874.]

Having had the satisfaction, at the meeting of this Society on the 19th of May last, of exhibiting to the Members then present two original letters mentioning a Dodo (*Didus ineptus*) sent to this country by the writer of them in the year 1628, I now offer a few remarks thereon; for the short time they had been in my possession hardly allowed me then to ascertain the chief points of interest to be derived from them.

The two letters were lent to me by their custodian, John Bramston Wilmot, Esq., M.D., of Tunbridge Wells. Early in the present year a notice of the Dodo by Mr. Tegetmeier, F.Z.S. (with a woodcut from the picture formerly belonging to the late Mr. Broderip, and now in the Society's keeping*), appeared in the 'Field' newspaper. This attracted Dr. Wilmot's attention; and he immediately communicated to that useful periodical a short extract from one of these letters, which, however, was very inaccurately printed†. On reading this I at once wrote to Dr. Wilmot, who has most kindly done all in his power to gratify my wishes on the subject.

The writer of the letters was Emanuel Altham, younger brother of Sir Edward Altham, Kt., of Marke Hall, in Essex, to whom they are addressed. Emanuel sailed from England in the spring of 1626, to the East Indies, on board the 'Hopewell,' in company with five other ships, one or more of which undoubtedly bore the ambassadors, Sir Dodmore Cotton and Sir Robert Sherley, whom Charles I. was sending to the "Pot-shaugh" of Persia, and, in their retinue, Sir Thomas Herbert, whose figure and descriptions of the Dodo are well known‡. The fleet anchored in Swalley road, off Surat, on the 30th of November in that year; and soon after, the voyagers separated—Herbert going, in the ship 'William,' to Gombroon in the Persian Gulf§. It is no easy matter to glean the dates of the various inci-

* Trans. Zool. Soc. iv. p. 186, pl. 54.

† 'Field,' xliii. p. 177, No. 1104, Feb. 21, 1874.

‡ See Strickland 'The Dodo' &c., pp. 19, 20.

§ Herbert's 'Travels' &c., 2nd ed. 1638, p. 110; 3rd ed. 1665, p. 107; 4th ed. 1677, p. 102.